



August 21, 2016

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

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EPA-REGION 10

All American Volleyball Camps has been in business for 24 years. We have grown and now operate in 20 states. Our camps are run by former collegiate players, most of whom play overseas professionally. They go out to the local high schools and work with specific teams that contract with us. As a business owner, I understand why businesses on the waterfront are worried about the impact the EPA plan will have on them. I believe it would be a serious mistake for the EPA to proceed with its current plan for cleaning the Willamette River. For one thing, the plan is based on old information that doesn't take into account changes in the river. Looking at the most recent research, it is clear that the river has done an incredible job of purifying itself over the last decade. The proposal should be updated to make certain what actually needs to be done so we don't over-correct and make things even worse. I suggest going bit by bit, dealing with the most polluted areas first that aren't successfully restoring themselves and then determining whether you need to dredge the remaining areas or not.

I would be very unhappy if I lost business or customers because the river was always shut down for dredging, and I'm sure this is a major concern for many other business owners. For that matter, it is foolish and wasteful to spend \$1 billion of taxpayer money on a project that is not based on the most recent science. That means taking money that could be used for other investments out of the hands of people who know what to do with it. If the money has to be spent by the government, it should be used for street repairs to make it easier to travel through the city. In light of its obsolete foundation and negative consequences for Portland, the EPA plan should be revised considerably. It would be best to start by soliciting advice from the community because local people always have the best idea of what is happening in their area.

Sincerely,


Steve Pickering
President